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CALIFORNIA

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White, Negro Servicemen Riot On Coast

The Courier Journal

DEC 28 1942

200 Marines, Sailors Battle for Half Hour

Louisville, Ky.

Vallejo, Calif., Dec. 27 (AP)—U. S. Marines and white sailors battled with Negro sailors in the streets and barrooms along the Vallejo waterfront in a half-hour riot last night that finally was ended by patrols of armed Marines and city police. About 200 men were involved.

No one apparently was injured critically, police said, although foru white sailors were taken to the Mare Island Naval Hospital with knife wounds.

Two Civilians Held.

A white civilian with an injured nose and one Negro civilian were held in the city jail on charges of refusing to obey police orders to leave the area.

Police said a Marine and a Negro sailor had a quarrel in a barroom on the waterfront Christmas night, and that last night's trouble apparently grew out of it.

Riot of Negroes And Whites Halted By Marine's Shots

DEC 29 1942

The Courier-Journal

Vallejo, Calif., Dec. 28 (AP)—Bullets from a U. S. Marine Corps military patrolman's tommy-gun brought an end last night to a week-end of rioting among white and Negro service men in the Vallejo waterfront amusement district.

Louisville Ky

City police said 400 service men milled around in last night's disorders, and half that number clashed in street and barroom fights Saturday night.

Leo Arthur Shaw, 18, wounded in the left arm, and George Carpenter, 26, shot in the left leg, were the only casualties of the Marine patrol's shooting. Both are Negro sailors.

"Punishment For Instigators," Is NAACP's Demand

The Informer, Houston, Texas

JAN 9 - 1943

VALLEJO, Calif.—The wounding of two Negro cooks during the riots December 26-27 involving some 275 Negro and white sailors and a few civilians here brought from the NAACP in New York the following telegram to Secretary of Navy Knox:

"Attack by Southern whites on Negro sailors and civilians to prevent latter from continuing as in past to use places of public accommodation in Vallejo, California, emphasizes again necessity for stronger policy by Navy Department in summarily punishing those who attempt to enforce southern racial patterns on northern communities.

"It is ironic and disheartening to read press statements that the disturbance was quelled when marines turned machine guns on the Negroes. It is also significant that only Negroes were injured, when the evidence seems to establish that white southerners were the aggressors in attacking Negro patrons of tavern. Courtmartial and punishment to full extent of law in this and similar cases will do more than anything else to prevent further outbreak. We respectfully demand such action."

Following the disturbances 1800 Negro sailors were confined to quarters at Mare Island Navy Yard while authorities investigated the rioting in a town in which before the wartime influx of workers and marines and white sailors from Texas, Oklahoma and other southern states, there was no apparent prejudice against Negroes, no segregation so far as restaurants and bars were concerned.

JAN 9 - 1943

False Report

The first fight on Saturday night, December 26, which seemed to crop out of a false report that a white marine had been stabbed by a Negro sailor. followed mounting complaints of discrimination against Negroes. Negro sailors had complained that they were being barred from restaurants, bars and other public places.

The injured Negroes, Leo Shaw, 18, and George Carpenter, 26, were first taken to Vallejo Hospital, where they told the attendants they were "innocent bystanders" and had nothing to do with the fighting. Later they were removed to Mare Island Hospital.

OUTBREAK EXPECTED; WILKINS DECLARES

NEW YORK — The outbreak at Vallejo, California, was "in the cards" and its occurrence is "no surprise," it was declared here by Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the NAACP, who returned two weeks ago from a two month's tour of the Pacific Coast.

"I was in Vallejo on November 9," said Mr. Wilkins, "and Negro sailors who had been transferred there from the Great Naval Training Station were already bitterly complaining about the treatment they were receiving from citizens and white sailors. The heavy influx of southerners into California cannot be imagined; it has to be seen. In addition, the fact that Mare Island Navy Yard is located there means that large numbers of white sailors, mostly southerners, are in and out of town.

"There had been several minor clashes before I arrived and the colored sailors with whom I talked were in no mood to stand much more of the insults they were receiving on every hand. Restaurants were asking them to 'take out' sandwiches. White sailors were openly taunting them on the streets or beating them up if Negroes were not in a large group.

"This news is no surprise to me. The colored lads held a special meeting with me after the regular mass meeting was over and declared flatly they were not going to stand the treatment any longer saying they thought the organizations and newspapers ought to get the Washington officials to do something about it and if nothing done they would use their own judgment."

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

California Riot Leaves Several Sailors Wounded

DEC 29 1942

Marines Step In and Halt Racial Clash

DEC 29 1942

VALLEJO, Cal.—(SNS)—Rioting among Negro and white service men in the Vallejo waterfront amusement district was brought to an end Sunday night only after a U. S. Marine Corps military patrolmen's tommy-gun was brought into play and two Negro sailors wounded.

The wounded sailors were listed as Leo Arthur Shaw, 18, shot in the left arm, and George Carpenter,, 26 wounded in the left leg.

City police said 400 service men milled around in Sunday night's disorders, and half that number clashed in streets and barroom fight Saturday night.

Saturday night, four white sailors were treated for slight wounds after fights with Negro sailors.

Navy orders sending all sailors, Negro and white, and marines to their ships virtually cleared this populous town near the Mare Island Navy Yard of uniformed men overnight. How long the confinement of service men to naval establishments would last was not announced.

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According to city police, friction between Negroes and whites started several days ago after the arrival here of several hundred Negro sailors.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

L. A. MOB MILLS IN STREET OVER

DEC 12 1942

TROLLEY CLASH

Dec. 12, 1942

Quartet of Negroes And Conductor Battle Over Street Car Fare

By LAWRENCE LA MAR

LOS ANGELES — Police squads armed with tear gas and tommy guns rushed to Temple and Main streets in the downtown section of the city Monday night to quell a near riot which flared as a result of an altercation between a quartet of Negroes and a street car conductor.

The colored men involved in the incident were James Shaw, 30; Allen Estes, 18; Joseph Ingram, 28; and Randolph James, 17.

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The conductor, F. F. McDonald, charging that one of the four refused to pay his fare, attempted to eject all of them. Pandemonium broke loose as the conductor was pushed from his car and the passengers started taking sides. Other cars were stopped as crewmen and white passengers went to the aid of the beleagued conductor.

One of the Negroes was injured and all four of them were arrested None of the whites were detained

Nearly a thousand persons were milling in the streets when the police arrived. Racial feeling ran high and observers believe the reason that no real damage was done to the colored men was because the incident occurred in the vicinity of a large Mexican settlement, known to be sympathetic to Negroes.

According to Atty. Walter L. Gordon Jr.. attorney for the jailed quartet, damages will be sought from the operator and the Los Angeles Railway.